

What information is available through the Task Force on paper?

The Task Force has 2000 census population and geographic data for all of New York State. The information will be available to the public in the form of paper maps.

How will this information be given to me?

The population and geographic information can be obtained on paper maps. The data are divided by county and contain such geographic units as *minor civil divisions* (MCD) that are towns or cities, tracts, blocks or *voting tabulation districts* (VTD).

Although most people are familiar with the political subdivisions of county, town, and city, few of us are familiar with such terms as MCD, tract, block, or VTD. These terms are used by the Census Bureau to further divide the population into more usable geographic units. Let us define these meanings so you can better understand their importance.

COUNTY is the primary political subdivision in NYS; there are 62 counties in NYS.

MINOR CIVIL DIVISION (MCD) is the primary political subdivision of a county; MCDs can represent a town, city, or Indian reservation.

TRACT or census tract is a small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other nonvisible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogenous units, census tracts usually contain between 2,500 to 8,000 inhabitants.

BLOCK is the smallest entity for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information. Blocks are bounded on all sides by visible and nonvisible features such as streets, roads, streams, or railroad tracks or by invisible boundaries such as city, town, county limits and short imaginary extensions of streets and roads. A block is numbered uniquely within each census tract, so to find a particular block you need both its tract and block numbers.

VOTING TABULATION DISTRICT is an election district or group of election districts whose exterior boundary follows census block geography. Multiple election districts are combined to form a VTD when one or more of the election districts split a census block. They are formed so that all of the exterior boundaries of the group follow census block geography.

Sound confusing?

Not really. Just remember that MCDs, tracts, blocks, and VTDs are nothing more than geographic units used by the Census Bureau. Although we are more accustomed to the political subdivisions like city and town, once you become more familiar with the Census terms they will be less confusing. If you do become confused with these terms, there is a glossary at the end of this section.

What do the maps look like?

The Census Bureau has mapped the entire nation and has computerized these data. The computerized geographic files are referred to as TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system). Maps produced by the Task Force were generated from the Census 2000 Redistricting TIGER/Line files.

These are the same files that are being used in the redistricting system. These maps are in black and white with different lines symbolizing each layer of geography. There are approximately 150 maps that cover the entire state at different levels of geography. All maps are in a standard 34" by 44" format.

Can I get a map for one particular district?

Maps are produced and disseminated by county. If the desired district is completely within the boundary of a single county then the map set for that particular county is all you need. When districts cross county borders then multiple county map sets would need to be ordered to display the entire district. You may submit a single district plan, however, maps must be purchased for the entire county. Most counties are broken down into MCDs. However, several large counties are broken down into different geographic units requiring multiple map sheets. They are listed as follows:

Albany County

City of Albany by Block

Rest of the County by MCD

Erie County

Cities of Buffalo, Tonawanda, and Lackawanna by Block

Rest of the County by MCD

Monroe County

City of Rochester by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Nassau County

Entire County by Block
Glen Cove City is included with Oyster Bay; Long Beach City is included with Hempstead.

New York City

All 5 Counties (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond) by Block

Niagara County

Cities of Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Oneida County

Cities of Utica and Rome by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Onondaga County

City of Syracuse by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Rensselaer County

City of Troy and Rensselaer by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Rockland County

Towns of Clarkstown, Orangetown, Ramapo by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Schenectady County

City of Schenectady by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Suffolk County

Towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip and Smithtown by Block
Rest of the County by MCD

Westchester County

Cities of Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains, and Yonkers by Block
Rest of County by MCD

All other Counties are displayed on a single statewide map sheet by MCD. The statewide map sheet shows population information at both the County and MCD level. The map will have County and MCD codes, total population and total minority population. Total minority population will be defined as follows: *total population minus non-Hispanic white population*. The aforementioned counties are also available separately on individual sheets showing MCD level information.

Maps displayed by MCD show County and MCD lines. Each MCD is labeled with MCD name, Census MCD code, total population and total minority population.

Maps generated at the block level will display County, MCD, Tract, and VTD lines and numbers, block boundaries, streets and street names. Each of the blocks will also be labeled with block number, total population and total minority population.

What is the cost of this information?

The cost for each map is \$3.00 per sheet. However, remember that you must purchase entire counties. There are some counties that have more than one map. Listed below are those counties and the total cost for each county.

County	# of maps	Total cost per map set
Albany	5	\$ 15.00
Bronx	7	\$ 21.00
Erie	6	\$ 18.00
Kings	10	\$ 30.00
Monroe	7	\$ 21.00
Nassau	27	\$ 81.00
New York	5	\$ 15.00
Niagara	3	\$ 9.00
Oneida	3	\$ 9.00
Onondaga	5	\$ 15.00
Queens	16	\$ 48.00
Rensselaer	4	\$ 12.00
Richmond	8	\$ 24.00
Rockland	8	\$ 24.00
Schenectady	3	\$ 9.00
Suffolk	29	\$ 87.00
Westchester	8	\$ 24.00
Statewide	1	\$ 3.00

What about voting data? Is that available?

Voting data are provided for each election at the VTD level for the years 1996, 1998, 2000 (General Election and Enrollment). These election data sets are available in a digital format. That information can be downloaded from the website or purchased from the Task Force on a CD-ROM.

What about digital data?

All other data files, including TIGER/Line, Census Redistricting PL 94-171 summary file and election information, are available on one CD-ROM for \$10.

Are there any other costs?

The mailing cost of the data is the responsibility of the person requesting the information.

How do I get this information?

All written requests should be directed to:

Bruce Ruiz - GIS Manager
NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic
Research and Reapportionment
250 Broadway - 21st Floor
New York, New York 10007-2563

If you are requesting the information for an organization the request should be on its stationery. Upon receiving the request, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager will review the letter to insure that the data requested is identifiable.

The GIS Manager will respond by phone to confirm the type of data and format that has been asked for, and notify the person of the exact cost of the material requested.

All payments should be by check or money order payable to the NYS Task Force on Reapportionment.

As soon as the GIS manager receives a check and verification of the information requested, the data will be sent by United Parcel Service (UPS).

Can I come in person and request information?

Yes. You will be asked to fill out a form. If possible, the requested material will be provided to you on the same day. Payment must be made at that time.

Can I fax a request?

Yes. The fax number is (212) 618 - 1135. Again, if you are seeking the information for an organization, you should send the request on its stationery. As soon as the office receives the request, the letter will be date stamped and forwarded to the GIS Manager for processing. The same procedure will be followed as requests received by mail.

How about phoning in requests?

Yes. The phone number is (212) 618 - 1100. The Task Force will log the name, address, organizational name, if any, and phone number of all persons requesting information and will process the request through the same procedure as requests received by mail.

I know some people who can't speak English. What can they do?

Members of the Task Force staff are fluent in Spanish. They will assist in translating those requests.

Can I share this information with anyone I want?

If you are going to share this information we would appreciate you telling the Task Force. As required by the U.S. Justice Department regulations, the Task Force will be keeping a list of the names and addresses of organizations and individuals who have requested information from the Task Force. Justice Department regulations require disclosure by the Task Force of its efforts to disseminate reapportionment data to the public.

To assist the Task Force in its effort to develop this list of who has received data, the Task Force would appreciate being notified of the names and addresses of any parties with whom you have shared this information.

If I have any other questions, where can I go?

You can contact the Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment at:

250 Broadway, Suite 2100
New York, New York 10007-2563
By phone: (212) 618-1100.

Glossary

ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A standard for representation of alphanumeric characters recognized by all models of computers.
BLOCK	The smallest entity for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information. Blocks are bounded on all sides by visible and nonvisible features such as streets, roads, streams, or railroad tracks or by invisible boundaries such as city, town, county limits and short imaginary extensions of streets and roads. A block is numbered uniquely within each census tract, so to find a particular block you need both its tract and block numbers.
COUNTY	The primary political subdivision in NYS.
GIS	Geographic Information System; a comprehensive software system that captures, stores, retrieves, analyzes and portrays data.
MCD	Minor Civil Division, the primary political subdivision of a county; it can be a city, town, or Indian Reservation.
TIGER	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing System; a computer file that contains geographic information representing the position of roads, rivers, railroads, and other census required map features; the position of the boundaries for those geographic areas that the Census Bureau uses in its data collection, processing, and tabulation operations.
TRACT	A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other nonvisible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogenous units, census tracts usually contain between 2,500 to 8,000 inhabitants.
VTD	Voting Tabulation District; an election district or group of election districts whose exterior boundary follows census block geography. Multiple election districts are combined to form a VTD when one or more of the election districts split a census block. They are formed so that all of the exterior boundaries of the group follow census block geography.